

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the Title of the Invention, please insert the following:

-- This application claims priority based on PCT Application No. PCT/EP02/12243, filed on November 2, 2002 and Swiss Patent Application No. 0084/02, filed on January 18, 2002, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 as follows:

-- The invention relates to a diffractive security element ~~as set forth in the classifying portion of claim 1~~ which is divided into surface portions with an optically effective structure of interfaces embedded between two layers of a composite of plastic material. --

Page 2, after line 23, insert the following:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Page 2, after line 29, insert the following:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Page 3, after line 7, insert the following:

-- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --